



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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MAYOR BARRETT ACTS TO EASE HOMELESS SHELTER OVERCROWDING

MILWAUKEE – Mayor Tom Barrett today announced an initiative to ease homeless shelter overcrowding. Using \$2.9 million of stimulus funds available through the Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-housing Program, Mayor Barrett and the City’s Community Development Block Grant Division brought together 16 local human services agencies to provide a variety of services to assist the homeless.

The primary strategy called “rapid re-housing” will make funds available for moving homeless families and individuals out of shelters faster, thus freeing up shelter space for those in need. “Instead of families and individuals having to stay in a shelter for months while they save up enough money to move into permanent housing, the rapid re-housing program will allow them to move in a matter of weeks,” said Mayor Barrett. “This will allow us to serve more people this winter.” Many of the units used to re-house families will be provided by the City of Milwaukee Housing Authority.

Mayor Barrett noted that other programs designed to prevent homelessness will be part of the array of services provided in the coming year. “In addition to moving people out of shelters into permanent housing faster, we also want to prevent families and individuals from becoming homeless in the first place. Additional funding will be available for mediation with landlords, as well as for legal representation in eviction actions,” Mayor Barrett concluded. Mayor Barrett directed persons interested in learning more about the initiative to dial 2-1-1.

Agencies participating in the initiative include: Pathfinders, St. Aemilian-Lakeside, Inc., Walker’s Point Youth and Family Center, Cathedral Center, Inc., Community Advocates, SDC Family Support Center, Milwaukee Housing Authority, Hope House of Milwaukee, Salvation Army, Center for Veterans Issues, Guest House of Milwaukee, Health Care for the Homeless, Legal Action of Wisconsin, and the Legal Aid Society.